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RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY 0738
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0434
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9113
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 2773
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 2918
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0824
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 6371

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 002384

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IO/UNP ERIN MCLINN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/27/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [IS](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: ITALY TO ABSTAIN ON ANTI-ISRAEL UNGA RESOLUTIONS

REF: STATE 159386

Classified By: A/Pol M/C Jonathan Cohen, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Poloff delivered reftel points to MFA UN Affairs Deputy Director Leonardo Bencini November 26, and urged Italy to change its abstentions on anti-Israel UNGA resolutions to "no" votes, especially in this season of renewed peace efforts. Bencini said Italy sought to maintain an even-handed approach in the Middle East. To change voting behavior now would create the appearance of Italian bias toward one side in the conflict. Bencini saw little likelihood of a change in Italian policy, particularly under the current center-left government.
SPOGLI